REMARKS

The Examiner's continued attention to the application is noted with appreciation.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jain in view of Chen. The rejection is traversed in that the claims do not read on the cited combination.

Jain allows for an automated search of the websites found in a user's bookmarks. Bookmarks can be put into folders and the folders can be renamed and moved around to change the hierarchy. Jain is equivalent to a user painstakingly building a web index of web sites on the internet, categorized by hand by each user.

In the present invention it is not the building of the index of website that is key, but rather the customization and use of categories. The present invention starts with an index of sites on the internet by category. It then allows a user to customize the categories in the already existing web index for that user. In the present invention, one user may change the name of the "Basketball" topic to "Basketball – The Best Sport!!" while another user may leave it as "Basketball." When each user accesses their web indexes, they will only see their customization, not the other users'. Furthermore, each user can customize the hierarchy of topics to meet their needs. Using the same example as used in the patent application:

User "A" can take a sports topic with subtopics of Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading, Cricket, Curling, Field Hockey, Football, Hockey, Lacrosse and Polo as follows:

- Sports
    - Baseball
    - Basketball
    - Cheerleading
    - Cricket
    - Curling
    - Field Hockey

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- Football
- Hockey
- Lacrosse
- Polo

and rearrange it to make some of the subtopics main links on the resulting customized web index, such as follows:

- Baseball
- Basketbal – The Best Sport!!
- Hockey
- Football
- Other Sports
    - Cheerleading
    - Cricket
    - Curling
    - Field Hockey
    - Lacrosse
    - Polo
    - Rugby

thereby changing the hierarchy of topics and re-naming them. User "B" can do a completely different customization of the sports topic. User "C" can exclude sports altogether. In this manner each user has the capability of taking the initial web index and customizing it to meet his or her needs and interests.

Furthermore, in Jain, as in every bookmark system, a user must add to the links, himself, one by one, in order for any links to be added. In the present invention links are added dynamically. The user does not necessarily ever have to visit the web site (or know of its existence) in order for it to be added to the index.

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The present invention is a dynamic search engine server, wherein a user can customize a web index and then choose to have the web index included on their web site. Each user's customization of their index is stored on the DISE server (a system of web server, database servers, etc.). Each user can put a block of code (called DSC in the patent, really it is a block of XML or other code) in a web page on their web site to add the index to their web site or they can access their personal web index on our server.

Every user's index is dynamically updated. As new web sites are added to the global index, they are automatically added to each individual's personal index. When a user accesses their web index (whether using a DSC on their web site or viewing in our server) they access the DISE server and their custom index is "served" to them with up to the minute information.

In short, in main the user does not alter topic categories maintained on the index server, but rather alters their own set of bookmarks.

The examiner attempts to combine Chen with Jain. Chen is used for the idea that a user can search a subset of topics on the internet. The present invention does not claim novelty in allowing for a search of a subset of internet pages. The invention is rather directed to a customized topicalized web index controlled by the user.

A web index is created in Chen, but it is not customizable. In Chen, a predefined set of topics is established, then each web site is "crawled" and if the web site fits into a topic or topics, it is indexed by the topic or topics, creating a web index (if the web site does not fit into the predefined topics then it is not indexed). Chen provides a way to search through topics of information using a novel search algorithm. In Chen, when a user searches, the search term is "mapped" into predefined phrases. Their example is that the word "helicopter" when searched may be mapped to "rotary-wing aircraft." In this manner Chen seeks to map all phrases to their pre-defined synonyms for a better search of their topics.

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In the present invention it is not how the information is searched that is being claimed but that each user can customize a topic index and then search only the web sites included in their customized web index.
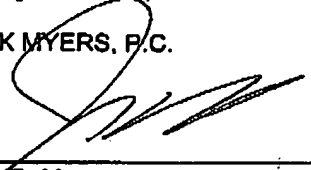
Neither Jain nor Chen nor their combination show <u>permitting a user to specify any subset of the hierarchical plurality of topic categories</u> maintained on the remote index server <u>and then adding to a hypertext transmission protocol page controlled by the user</u> link information permitting execution of searches of the index server in any category of the subset but only of categories in the subset. Jain is not manipulating topic categories but rather is manipulating website links. Chen is dealing with topic categories but these are not manipulatable by the user. Furthermore, it makes no sense to combine Jain with Chen because Jain is dealing with searches based on one's bookmarks (sites already known to be of interest to the user) whereas Chen is dealing with indexing all accessible websites based on a set of preexisting categories.

An earnest attempt has been made to respond to each and every ground of rejection advanced by the Examiner, without introduction of new matter or raising new issues. However, should the Examiner have any queries, suggestions or comments relating to a speedy disposition of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

PEACOCK MYERS, P.C.

By:_____

Jeffrey D. Myers
Reg. No. 35,964
Direct Dial: (505) 998-1502

Attorney for Applicant:
P.O. Box 26927
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-6927
Phone: (505) 998-1800
Fax: (505) 243-2542

Customer No. 0051'9

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